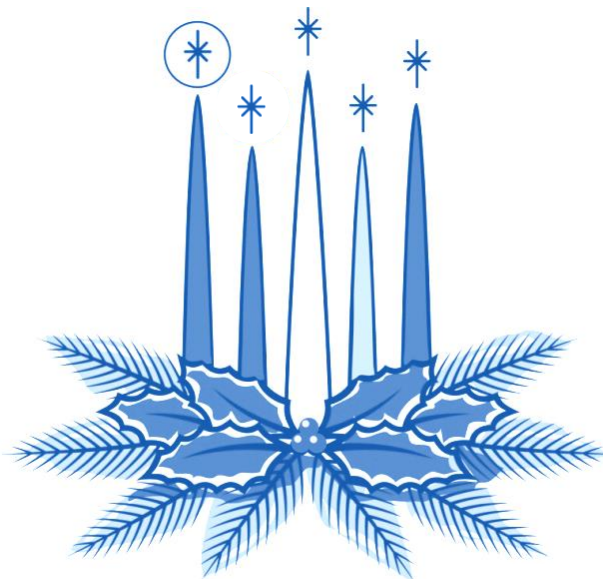


# EDWARDS CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



**In the name of God and Jesus Christ,** Edwards Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcomes all who seek to know and worship God. We invite everyone to join in our faith journey and participate in our congregational life.

**As a community of faith** we take seriously the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, and recognize that although we are many members we are one. We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone. We rejoice in our diversity of views and understanding of our shared faith. We commit ourselves to work diligently to help end oppression and discrimination. We affirm all relationships founded on the principle of God's love and justice.

**We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.**

Seeking to be the Body of Christ, we welcome into full fellowship and membership all persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or cognitive ability, and economic status.

39 Edwards Street  
Framingham, MA 01701  
508-877-2050  
edwardschurch.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — COMMUNION

DECEMBER 1, 2019

10:00 AM

**A thought for reflection**

“At least one way of preparing for Christmas is this two-fold call of John - first to repent and turn to the Lord Christ with all that we are, and second, to begin a life of living that reflects our love for others.”

—Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

*GOD GATHERS US*

**PRELUDE**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*(We invite you to turn to your neighbors and greet them.)*

**INTROIT**

“O COME TO US, EMMANUEL”

JOSEPH M. MARTIN

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The voice of the Lord declares, “Comfort, O comfort my people.”

People: **A voice cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”**

Leader: The earth will be transformed, God’s glory will be revealed.

People: **We expect your arrival in fire and flame. Instead, we follow a star on a cold night.**

Leader: You meet us in this place, as we remember your curious way.

People: **As we wait, cleanse us. As we wait, mold us.**

Leader: Our ears and eyes perceive no other god besides You, and so we worship this day.

People: **We are all your people and we will wait for You.**

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “THE BAPTIST SHOUTS ON JORDAN’S SHORE”

**NCH 115**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER**

*(Please pray using the words you find most meaningful. There is a prayer card in your pew rack.)*

\* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE** *(Please stand for the Sentences of Praise and Gloria.)*

Leader: All praise be to you, O God.

People: **We sing praise to the source of our hope and our redemption.**

\* **GLORIA** *(Sing twice.)*

**NCH 756**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgive us, God, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. Help us live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

## RESPONSE

FROM NCH 122

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

## GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

### WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“ADVENT INCANTATION”

SINGING THE SEASON, C-2

Leader: Hope is an easy word to say. How’re we gonna make it real?

People: **We pray for vision to see hope hidden beneath despair.**

Leader: We pray for faith in the promise of hope when we cannot see it.

People: **We pray for courage to act in hope.**

Leader: As we light the candle of hope, we commit ourselves to making hope real in our world.

#### THE GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 1:1-8

(Pew Bible p. 812)

#### THE ANTHEM

“PREPARE YE”

MARC ROBINSON

#### MEDITATION

“PREPARING”

REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

#### CALL TO PRAYER

#### CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION AND PETITION

## GOD CALLS FOR OUR GIFTS

#### OUR OFFERING TO GOD

OFFERTORY

\* DOXOLOGY

(Lasst uns erfreuen)

NCH 17

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOD CALLS US TO THE TABLE

#### THE LORD’S SUPPER

(See insert.)

## GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

\* HYMN OF DEDICATION

“LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES”

NCH 117

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

(Please feel free to remain and listen, or to greet one another in the narthex and at coffee hour.)

## OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

## LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

MINISTERS	ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH
PASTOR	REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH	REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH
COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC	RICK SEAHOLM
ORGANIST	CHERYL ELKINS
PIANIST	SUSAN MINOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	NICOLA SEAHOLM
SEXTON	LORI WILSON
LITURGIST	DEBBIE CLARK
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	SHELLY CICHOWLAS
COMMUNION SERVERS	CLAIR BALL & DAWN SORENSEN
	NOAH CICHOWLAS & KELVIN PHELPS
	MATT WALKER
GREETER	RONDA YEOMANS
COMPOST CAPTAIN	
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.	

**Communion Note:** You are invited to come to the communion table to partake of the Lord's Feast. Come forward row by row from the back to be served. Dip the bread in the **grape juice** in the chalice on your **left** or in the **wine** in the chalice on your **right**. Proceed back to your seats by the side aisles. If you prefer to be served at your seat, we will come to you.

The **Communion Offering** is used for confidential emergency needs. If you or someone you know has a need, bring this to the attention of the minister or a member of the Diaconate. The offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Put your name on the envelope for tax credit purposes. Please consider this offering thoughtfully.

**Welcome!** No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, we are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee following the service. Please sign our guestbook or fill out a welcome card.

**We extend a special welcome to children** and their families. The sound of children's voices is the sound of a living church! We want children to learn and question alongside adults, and we welcome whispers, wiggles, and joyful noises of all kinds. In the entryway to the sanctuary, you will find some quiet activity boxes; please take one and have fun! We have a loving, trained nursery staff available for our youngest children.

### Accessibility



Large  
Print

### Available in the Narthex (front entrance hallway):

- Sound-enhancing assistive listening devices
- Large print edition of the church bulletin



- **Accessible parking** spots are marked and located near the Education Building entrance.
- **Accessible entrance** is located on the lower level of the Education Building (to the left of the Church main entrance).
- **Elevator** is located in the Education Building next to the stairs.
- **Accessible restroom** is located on the upper level of the Education Building.

# THIS WEEK AT EDWARDS CHURCH

December 1-7, 2019

<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b> .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	1:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b><i>Journey of the Spirit</i></b> .....	<b><i>Fatima Shrine</i></b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Library
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b><i>Strength Without a Gym</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	6:15pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Board of Trustees</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b><i>Guided Meditation</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b><i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b><i>Gentle Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	1:00pm	<b>Nursing Home Services</b> .....	<b>Heritage and Oak Knoll</b>
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b><i>Hatha Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b><i>Interfaith Book Group</i></b> .....	<b><i>Jonathan House</i></b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>1:15pm</b>	<b><i>Prayer Shawl Knitters</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	6:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b><i>Veterans Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Diaconate</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b><i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	4:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b><i>Cancer Support Group</i></b> .....	<b><i>Youth Room</i></b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b><i>Kripalu Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Board of Finance</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:30pm	AA Meeting .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Family Fun Night</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classrooms
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Men's Group</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b><i>Chair/Mat Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	10:00am	Rental .....	Youth Room
	<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Gifts that Give Fair</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	4:30pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary

# Important Announcements

## **Presents for Pathways**

The Wider Mission gift drive for residents of Pathways Family Shelter is underway. This year, we will be providing a pair of slippers and sneakers for each child, as well as a set of dishes (basic service for four) for each of the fourteen families to have when they move to more permanent housing. Walmart gift cards (\$10) are also appreciated. Pick up a gift tag from the Christmas bulletin board at coffee hour. Please return your unwrapped gift as soon as you are able (no later than December 15). Extra gift wrap and boxes are also always appreciated. Thank you very much for your generous support!

## **Journey of the Spirit: Learning about the Faith of Our Neighbors**

*TODAY at 2:00pm at Fatima Shrine (101 Summer Street in Holliston)*

Join us as we continue our journey of discovery to gain greater understanding and appreciation of faith and traditions of our neighbors, deepen relationships among fellow travelers, and strengthen our shared commitment to this community. Speak to Karen Nell today if you want to attend. Donation of \$15.

## **Family Fun Friday**

*Friday, December 6 at 6:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

We hope that everyone, especially families and youth, will join us for a special evening gathering. We will work on holiday crafts and share pizza, salad, dessert, and hot chocolate. Look for the sign-up sheet at church or RSVP to Karen Nell. Be there or be square!

## **Gifts that Give Fair—with Santa on an Antique Fire Truck**

*Saturday, December 7, 1:00-4:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Our Board of Wider Mission invites you to start your holiday shopping at church. You can purchase fair-trade gifts to support many causes that are important in our community and our world. Get your picture taken with Santa on an antique fire truck! New this year: A project table for young people; tables for Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network, El Toque del Maestro church, and Syrian cookies and breads to support refugee families.

## **Seeds of Grace**

*Sunday, December 15 at 5:00pm for a simple soup supper, 5:30pm worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

The Seeds of Grace worship team will lead us in a time of warm community and creative worship with the Advent theme, "What are we waiting for?" Come gather for a cup of soup and a time of sharing stories and song, conversation and prayer. We hope to see you there!

## **Lunch Bunch Christmas Gathering**

*Wednesday, December 18 at noon in Edwards Hall*

Everyone is welcome to join us for a Christmas lunch, featuring turkey, stuffing, and all your favorite dishes. Fran and Debbie will provide turkey and stuffing; everyone is invited to bring a favorite holiday dish. Please sign up on the way to coffee hour or RSVP to the church office.

## **Interfaith Multi-Narrative Listening Tour to Israel/Palestine**

*Summer, 2020 (Register by December, 2019)*

Travel with a group of Jews, Christians and Muslims on an eight-day journey to the Holy Land and its people that will engage your mind, body and spirit. At the heart of this trip is listening with an open heart and mind to many different perspectives and experiences, lead by Israeli and Palestinian Mejdi Tour™ guides. Visit [openspiritcenter.org/interfaith-multinarrative-tour](https://openspiritcenter.org/interfaith-multinarrative-tour) for more information.

# Gifts that Give Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 7 from 1:00-4:00pm in Edwards Hall

Take a picture with  
Santa on an antique fire  
truck!



- ✧ Fair trade handicrafts from artists' co-ops
- ✧ Scarves for A Place to Turn
- ✧ Homemade goodies to eat or gift
- ✧ Socks for Worcester Fellowship
- ✧ Fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate
- ✧ Children's holiday project table

Invite a neighbor to this wonderful community event!

# Christmas Poinsettias



The Christmas season is upon us! It is our tradition to decorate the chancel with beautiful poinsettias. This year they will be displayed during worship on Sunday, December 22. You can help by ordering a poinsettia either in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one who has passed.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ [number] poinsettias.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory

of: \_\_\_\_\_

*("In memory of..." is to remember those who have gone before us.)*

In honor

of: \_\_\_\_\_

*("In honor of..." is to honor those still living.)*

Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount

paid: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$6 per poinsettia)

*Checks should be made payable to Edwards Church with a memo for "Poinsettias."*